

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,030 Rotonda Residents

MARCH 2024



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

MAYBE IT'S THE VOLUNTEERS THAT MAKE ROTONDA GO ROUND!

Article by Connie Smith

Photos by David Pulaski

The many volunteers that supplement the few paid personnel of Rotonda West Were honored with a recognition event Sunday, February 25, at The Hills Restaurant. Chairs of committees recognized their members and praised their efforts, but the greatest accolades were reserved for two individuals:

- **Barb Peszko**, who has chaired Rotonda West's Residential Modification and Compliance Committees for "many years", earned the Volunteer of the Year Award.
- **Andy Vanscyoc**, widely acknowledged "Admiral" of Rotonda's canals (and RWA Board President), was honored for leading a 9-months' long waterway cleanup following Hurricane Ian.



Barb Peszko
named
RWA Volunteer of
the Year 2023

In announcing the volunteer of the year, event host and co-chair, Nadine Clough, noted Peszko's "grace, fairness, and toughness" as she conducts the business of her two committees.

Continued on pg. 2

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 3

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

RWA Volunteer of the Year

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Talent Show

Nature Walk

Aquatic Plants

Walk Your Dog Day

Upcoming Events

Contact West Ways at:
westways@rotondawest.org

Rotonda West Administrative
Office-Community Center
Broadmoor Park
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33947
Office Hours: 8 am-4pm M-F

Tel: (941) 697-6788

A resident of Rotonda West since 1998, Peszko said, “I love this community.” prior to her present positions, she served on the Building & Grounds committee, as well as the Election Committee. She praised her committee members who meet multiple times a month to administer their large agendas. She also complimented the committee’s staff support Tammy Birdsong, “You are the best!” She noted that Rotonda’s residents are well served. “By far, we’ve got a friendly staff, the greatest office staff.”

Andy Vanscyoc told the audience he believes that Rotonda’s 23 miles of canals would still be polluted with hurricane debris without the efforts of the many volunteers who worked with him to clear porta-potties, waste receptacles, housing pieces and parts, flora, fauna, and countless other trash. “Right after Hurricane Ian we tried to have a boat parade and we couldn’t do it because the canals were so clogged,” he said. “I didn’t do it for recognition. I did it because I love our community and I love our canals. I got angry and we just did it. If we’d waited for the county, I really believe we’d still be waiting.”



Master of Ceremonies Sam Besase introduced representatives of each committee, who in turn, recognized their members and told a little bit about their committee function:

- **Budget & Finance** (Jack Metz, speaking on behalf of Chair Tom D’Abrosca) advises the board of directors how to spend community funds.
- **Buildings & Grounds (Aquatics Subcommittee)** (Sam Besase) deals with purchase, maintenance and beautification of RWA property.
- **Community Outreach** (Deb Orchard) gave posthumous acknowledgement to committee member Lynn Smith who passed away last summer. The committee sponsored 50 events in 2023.
- **Compliance** (Barb Peszko) a review of violations of Rotonda West covenants.
- **Residential Modification** (Barb Peszko) approves additions or modifications to existing homes or structures according to RWA guidelines.
- **Deed Restriction** (Eugene Lerner, speaking on behalf of Chair Dale Jensen) advises the board in enforcing its deed restrictions
- **Election** (Roseanne Woodliff) conducts the annual election of the RWA board of directors.



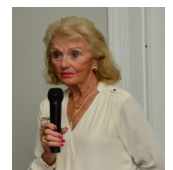
“Admiral Andy Vanscyoc accepts Special Recognition Award



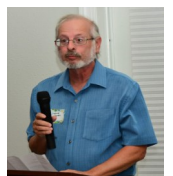
Jack Metz



Deb Orchard



Barb Peszko



Eugene Lerner



Roseanne Woodliff

- **Christmas Parade** (Deb Orchard) celebrates the winter holidays in Rotonda West. Looking for logistics person for next year's parade.
- **Meet & Greet** (Donna Stogsdill) monthly social get-together of all Rotonda residents.
- **Celebrate the Circle** (Denise Slovinski) family event at Broadmoor Park
- **West Ways** (Nadine Clough) Rotonda's monthly newsletter that is now read by over 5,000 residents.
- **Holiday Decorating** (Linda Kelly) this new chair will have new decorations for 2024 and is looking for volunteers.



Donna Stogsdill



Nadine Clough



Linda Kelly

Thank you to all the committee members for the work that you do



A surprised
Barb Peszko



Welcoming table
Cheryl Lateer, Nadine Clough,
Maureen McDowell



Manager Derrick Hedges
with wife, Meghan

Thank you to The Hills for a delicious meal.

Thank you to the Community Outreach Committee for organizing the event.

Thank you to the Association for sponsoring the dinner.



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RWA COMMITTEES AT WORK:

THE BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Article and Photo by: Nadine Clough



The Buildings & Grounds Committee is one of the seven standing committees that assist and advise the Board of Directors. As with all committees, it is comprised of volunteers who are appointed by the Board.

The RWA website states:

The Committee assists with investigating and recommending the purchase, maintenance, and beautification issues with the RWA property. It reviews plant health and maintenance of landscaped areas, monitors the mowing, and proposes new ways to enhance the beauty, look and feel of our community.

The above website overview is a general, somewhat conservative look at what this committee studies and advises the BOD on. Over the last several years, this committee has studied the proposed addition to the administrative office area. That proposal is currently in the hands of the Board awaiting further action.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS L to R:

John House, Maureen McDowell, Hank Killion, Derrick Hedges, Chairperson Sam Besase, John Peszko, Wade Casteel, and Keith Jenkins.

Not pictured: Dale Jensen & Randy Raiden



New addition to Community Center parking lot.

Some of the recent projects involving the Buildings & Grounds Committee include: advising the BOD on the continuing clean-up from Hurricane Ian; studying and presenting the proposal for the new parking lot in front of the community center; advising the BOD on the addition of the deck behind the Community Center; working on reviewing bids on the proposed electric sign at the entrance to Broadmoor Park.

Responsibilities extend to the maintenance of equipment used by the RWA, and the year by year plan to systematically replace equipment. The committee also periodically conducts a cost analysis study, and the feasibility of “contractors vs. in-house” work such as mowing or canal maintenance. A canal maintenance proposal whereby RWA would take over in-house maintenance of canal is planned to be presented at next BOD meeting. The Buildings & Grounds committee includes the Aquatics subcommittee which oversees the health of Rotonda canals, ponds, and the Rotonda River.

Rotonda residents are fortunate to have these volunteers planning and assisting the Board with the many aspects of Rotonda’s grounds and the buildings.

The next meeting will be: Tuesday, March 12th at 10:30a.m. Check the RWA calendar.

Email: buildingsandgrounds@rotondawest.org

ROTONDA SHINES WITH

Story by: Pattie Mihalik

Pictures by: David Pulaski

TALENT

When the first Rotonda West talent show in five years was advertised, we were told it would feature RWA's finest talent.

Call it a promise kept!

On Saturday, February 24th, a spectacular talent show was put on! Each contestant in the show had commendable talent. Picking winners from that diverse field wasn't easy. It looked like the top winner could be any one of the talented contestants-until Scott Barnett took the microphone.

His deep tenor voice, incredible range and perfect Italian lyrics left no doubt about the winner! The awed audience gave him thunderous applause and a prolonged standing ovation. Judges concurred, awarding Scott the top prize.

Mike Millington was awarded second place while 90-year old Joe Laspro captured third place for his monologue and song, "I Wish I Was 18 Again."

The audience saw a flawless show, thanks to the work of producers Lorene Thompson Mancus and Donna Stogsdill, Master of Ceremony Andy Van Scyoc, and committee members Rita Lopienski, Ed Mancus, Diane McGrath, Mike Roller, and Grace Chetcuti.

While the judges were tabulating, Rita Lopienski entertained with violin solos and Andy Vanscyoc and Nicole Castor sang.



Rita Lopienski

Judges were: Doug Izzo, executive director of Englewood Chamber of Commerce; journalist Pattie Mihalik; and Norma Wood.

If you missed the talent show, you will have another chance to see some talented

Rotonda singers on Monday, March 11th in the upcoming Music in the Park event.



Talent Show Producers

L to R: Donna

Stogsdill and Lorene

Thompson Mancus



A large crowd of over 200 residents enjoyed the show

T★LENT



L to R: 3rd Place Winner- Joe Laspro
2nd Place Winner- Mike Millington
1st Place Winner- Scott Barnett



MUSIC IN THE PARK - ROTONDA UKULELE BAND

By: Rita Lopienski



Rotonda West Ukulele Band
34 happy, energetic & singing ukulele players (& some kazoos) performed to a full house February 5th, bringing a feel of the Caribbean & Tropics, wearing Hawaiian shirts, hats and leis. Director Nadine Clough did a great job leading the band, telling about ukuleles and introducing each song, and the audience enjoyed singing along to the classic oldies.



In Honor of National Nutrition Day Rotonda Health & Wellness Presents: “ Healthy Eating”

March 20th@ 2.p.m.



Join alyssa Dunaway, Registered Dietician for HCA Florida Englewood Hospital, who will provide guidance on how to live healthier lives through informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits. Learn about the connection between diabetes and nutrition.

Eating well doesn't mean giving up your favorite foods, it's about finding the balance between keeping the flavors you love and incorporating the nutrients you need to live well. Simple swaps such as opting for the low-fat versions of cheeses and dressings, choosing lean meats, and using natural sweeteners will all help you meet your health goals, and they'll taste great too!

Get the latest news on growth and Services at Englewood Hospital from Julie Beatty, Director of Communication.

Submitted by: Rita Lopienski

COMMUNITY CENTER PATIO

By: Deb Orchard Photos by: David Pulaski

If you haven't stopped by yet, you should. Rotonda has a new, large patio behind the community center. The area is perfect for setting up your corn hole games, or just a place to sit quietly and look out over Lake Ferrell.

Thank you to Buildings and Grounds for the design, Budget and Finance for "finding" the funding, the Board of Directors for approving the design and budget and to our Manager, Derrick Hedges for overseeing the construction. A special thank you to Karen Harvey, who was our emcee on Thursday, February 15th for our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, which took place just prior to our first outdoor Music in the Park of the 2024 season. Thank you to all who had a part in the planning and construction of the patio as it is a welcome addition to Broadmoor Park.



Making It Official

L to R: Budget & Finance Chair Tom D'Abrosca, Manager Derrick Hedges, RWA President Andy Vanscyoc, Board member Karen Harvey, Community Outreach Committee Chair Deb Orchard, and Building & Grounds Chair and Board member Sam Besase

MICHAEL WHITE PERFORMANCE FOLLOWS DEDICATION OF NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

By: Deb Orchard Photos by: David Pulaski

On Thursday, February 15th we welcomed back Michael White. He was our first outdoor performer when we first started Music in the Park back in 2021.

We sang along, we danced and just generally had a wonderful evening. The weather was ideal, sunny with a light breeze. Quite a few of our attendees sat on the new patio (behind the Community Center) and were treated to being up close to Michael as he went through the audience performing for and with us. Even those walking their dogs along the path around the lake joined in singing and dancing as they went along.

Along with many wonderful songs of his choosing, he also took requests. The music was wonderful and varied. We also were treated to his performance of "To Dream the Impossible Dream" which was his competition song and won his 5th place in the International Karaoke competition in Japan.

What's next?

March 8th Rotonda Singers

March 21st North Port Showcase of symphony style chamber groups

April 8th Dance party with Eric Stefanik/Seasons of Sound

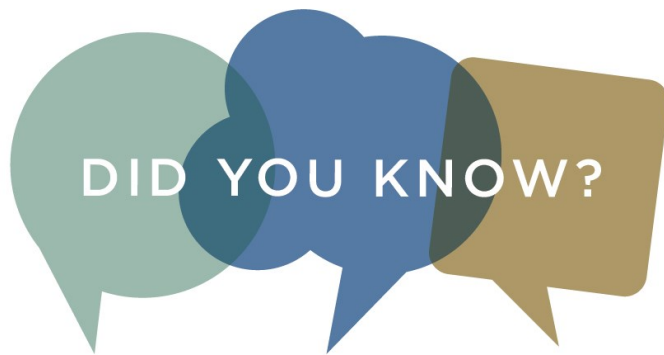
April 18th Speakeasy Alley

Watch for upcoming events on:

Constant Contact Flyers, West Ways, Bulletin Boards outside the RWA office, and on select Facebook pages.

We hope you will come and enjoy these performances





SOUTHWEST FLORIDA HUMIDITY

We love our tropical climate here in Rotonda West Florida, but you may have heard this phrase, “It’s not the heat, it’s the humidity that will get you.” If not managed, our paradise weather can quickly become a disaster for your health, your wallet and your home. The dreaded “M” word (mold or mildew) can be a real problem with our humid weather. Consistent high humidity levels cause problems such as allergies, asthma, increased risk of illness, respiratory irritation, flaking/peeling of paint and the break-down of organic materials such as wood, cotton and leather.

First, we need an accurate reading of the temperature and humidity inside our home. Thermostats can be somewhat accurate, but it’s always good to cross check it with a hygrometer; they are very inexpensive and very useful. You can place one in each area of your home to see the consistency of the humidity throughout. So, what is a good %? In SW Florida, it is best to keep the humidity in our homes between 40-50%. According to mold remediation companies, mold thrives in temperatures between 77° and 86°F. If indoor humidity is over 55% for more than 72 hours, microbial growth can begin. This can cause extensive and expensive damage to our home and belongings. To discourage mold growth indoors, humidity levels should be kept below 50%.

So how can we lower the humidity? Here are a few simple tips:

- 1) **Ventilate:** Moving the air in your home will make the water in the air evaporate much faster. Keep doors to rooms and closets open. You can also lower the temperature of your thermostat for periods of time during the day, keep ceiling fans on low, utilize exhaust fans in bathrooms and the kitchen. Air circulation also applies to attic or crawl spaces. The more ventilation the better when it comes to high levels of indoor humidity.
- 2) **Thermostat fan:** Up north in colder climates, the fan set to on is beneficial, but here in SW Florida it is best to keep the FAN set to AUTO. What’s the difference? Auto – the fan only turns on when your system is heating or cooling air. Once the thermostat reaches the desired temp, the fan will shut off until the next cycle. ON – means the blower fan is continuously running, circulating air even when your AC is no longer heating or cooling. When cooling, the fan in the on position can cause condensation to form on the coils, creating increased moisture, contributing to humidity, the very thing you are trying to control.
- 3) **Have your HVAC system serviced by professionals at least twice a year.** They will ensure it is running optimally. Also, be sure you are replacing your filters every 3 months (or as advised by your HVAC company); dirty filters can overwork your unit unnecessarily.
- 4) **Indoor plants:** They’re pretty, but can affect indoor humidity. Only water them when necessary. Generally, plants with large leaves and ones from tropical environments increase humidity, while other plants, such as the Boston Fern, will decrease humidity in the home.
- 5) **Damp-Rid:** If you are home and able to constantly empty the water that accumulates, then it might be ok. However, if you are a seasonal Florida home owner or away for an extended vacation, Damp Rid is NOT a good idea. The water it draws from the air remains in the container; it is still in your home and there for as long as you are not.

WE HOPE YOU FIND THESE TIPS HELPFUL

ROTONDA NATURE WALK

FEBRUARY 10, 2024

Article and Picture by:

Merrill Horswill



The Rotonda Nature Walk at Broadmoor Park was led by David Smith from Charlotte County Parks and Natural Resources and included a BioBlitz that documented all the plants and animals seen while walking around Farrell Lake. Twenty two participants learned about native plants, invasive plants, butterflies, alligators and birds

using apps such as Merlin for birds, plant.net for plants and Seek for all species. David also recommended using Inaturalist. Volunteers helped with identification.

Thirty two native plants were documented including important pollinator nectar plants such as Spanish Needles, Southern Beeblossom, Camphorweed and Coreopsis. Others like Cowpea, Coontie and Dahoon Holly are larval host plants (caterpillar food) for many butterflies. Some non native non invasive plants also help pollinators, like Tropical Milkweed, the host plant for Monarch butterflies. Many Monarch butterflies were seen in the butterfly garden and Southern White and Cassius Blue butterflies were found along the trail.

There are also invasive plants along the trail which displace native habitat such as Brazilian Pepper, Carrotwood and Umbrella Plant. David stressed the importance of retaining native trees and shrubs such as Sabal Palm, Saw Palmetto, pine, oak and willow. He said it is also vital to remove invasive plants to improve wildlife habitat.

We saw two 12' long alligators. David said: "To estimate an alligator's length, convert the distance in inches from the tip of the nose to the eye ridge into feet."

Seventeen species of birds were recorded in and around the lake including six Lesser Scaup, two Mottled Ducks and 3 Anhingas one Little Blue Heron, three Tricolored Herons, one Cattle Egret, one Great Egret and two White Ibis. Two Kestrels were in trees and 4 Turkey Vultures and 45 White Pelicans were flying overhead. We also saw and heard Common Grackles, Mourning Doves, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Palm Warblers along the walk.

Participants thanked David and the volunteers for an outstanding learning and viewing experience. Rotonda Nature will sponsor future nature programs to showcase the flora and fauna in our community and learn how we can become more wildlife friendly.

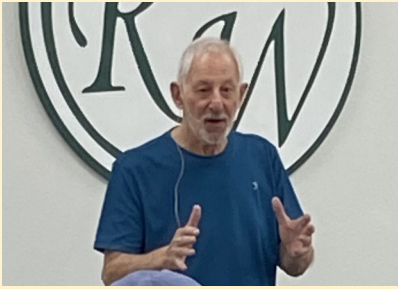
For more information on native plants and upcoming events in our area:

Mangrove Chapter of the Native Plant Society: <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/>
21st Annual Native Plant Day, including plant sale, March 9, 2024 9am-12pm Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd. Englewood

People for Trees: <https://www.peoplefortrees.com/> Tree Fair and Sale 4/27/24 9am to 1pm, Northport City Center Green in front of City Hall 4970 City Hall Blvd, North Port

Dr. Frank Levin on The Impossible Behavior of Light

By: Nadine Clough Photo by: David Pulaski



Dr. Frank Levin

At the February 28th lecture held at the RWA Community Center, Dr. Frank Levin once again challenged our minds to join him in looking into the impossible behavior of light. His lecture centered on the question, “How can light act in a wave-like fashion yet also behave like a particle?” Dr. Levin then took us through an evolving scientific and mathematical journey to learn what the great thinkers in history questioned and theorized about the behavior of light. Over hundreds of years using experiments, mathematics,

and building upon what other scientist had learned, great thinkers such as Aristotle, who pondered how light interacts with our eyes to help us see objects, to Isaac Newton, who linked light and vision through what he called “corpuscles” or particles of light, to Albert Einstein, who won the Nobel Prize for his Photo-Electric Effect theory, these scientists brought us to the world of quantum dynamics.

So how can light act in both a wave-length manner and in a particle– like manner? The answer is that electron and photons are quantum objects that behave impossibly, and in a random way.

Watch for future Frank Levin Lecture dates in West Ways, and through Constant Contact bulletins.

JOIN THE TEAM AT THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT BROADMOOR PARK

Submitted by: Ann Weaver

We plant, weed and plan...alongside Monarchs, Cloudless Sulphurs, Swallowtails, and Gulf Fritillaries. We can always use another pair of helping hands.

Love to garden? Learn how to create your own Butterfly Habitat.

To join the Team, email Ann Weaver at:

Ann.weaver815@gmail.com

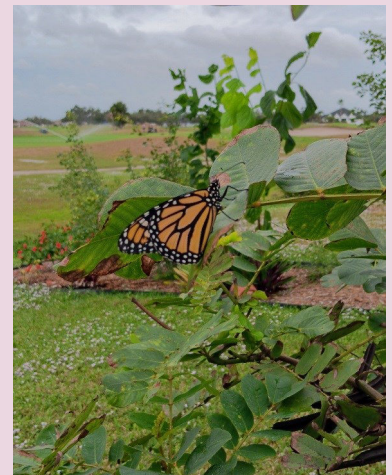


Photo by: Ann Weaver

AQUATIC PLANTS SUCH AS VALLISNERIA, AN IMPORTANT PART OF HEALTHY CANALS

Submitted by: Bob Winters

Aquatics Sub-committee

Vallisneria Americana or tape grass is the most dominant submerged plant in our 30 mile fresh water canals. Healthy tape grass will improve water quality and is prime habitat for all species of fish and other critters. Small fish and fresh water shrimp will hide among the blades of this grass and Largemouth Bass will use it to ambush their prey.

This freshwater plant is the same plant that is found in the saltwater of Charlotte Harbor. Those residents who fish the shallows of Charlotte Harbor, Lemon Bay, and the many other local sounds and bays know the importance of *Vallisneria* for the health of our local saltwater fishery.

Since our canals discharge over a dam into Lemon Bay, it is important that we maintain good water quality in Rotonda's waterways. The Aquatics Sub-committee recognizes the importance of *Vallisneria* in its canal management plan that calls for cutting and harvesting, while leaving a center channel open for navigation. Prior to 2010, the plant was killed and allowed to rot depleting dissolved oxygen and allowing algae to grow.



Above: Fresh Water Shrimp from White Marsh Park Photo by: Bill Dunson



Left: *Vallisneria Americana* In Rotonda River

By: Bob Winter

**Enjoy the healthy and clean
waters of Rotonda's canals.**



We need volunteers to fill vacant spots in all sections of Rotonda West

Neighbors helping neighbors. It's a simple adage and one that holds immeasurable power when it comes to keeping communities safe. Residents should always keep an eye out for strangers in their neighborhood. If anyone is seen running through the neighborhood, carrying suspicious packages, entering an unoccupied house, loitering around, peering into cars, waiting around schools or parks, or even appearing at people's doors as a delivery person with the wrong address, call the Sheriff's Non-Emergency number 941-639-0013.

Why do we patrol?

Basic Crime Prevention~ Work for a better and safer neighborhood through protecting and honoring the rights of others. Build a Stronger Community~ Get to know your neighbors. In our fast-paced world, we don't spend enough time learning about our neighbors. Watch groups give community members a reason to get together and talk about making their community a better place

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

There are obvious benefits Neighborhood Watch volunteers and their communities have experienced throughout the years such as: • a reduction in crime • a better quality of life • a greater sense of security, responsibility, and personal control • building community pride and unity • preparing for helping others and ourselves in our community • becoming the extra "eyes and ears" of law enforcement personnel and therefore reduce law enforcement's burden.

You Can Do It

Feel like you don't have the time? It only takes a moment to notice something suspicious and report what you saw.

Volunteers assist just two hours a month. Every effort helps.

Feel like you're still a newcomer to the neighborhood? Neighborhood Watch is a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors and find people who share your interests. Knowing your neighbors also makes it easier to recognize strangers who may not have legitimate business on your street.

You're Part of the Answer People like you are what makes a Neighborhood Watch program successful. Your neighbors need your help and you need your neighbor's help. The small steps you take now will pay big dividends down the road. Building a spirit of community helps keep all of you safer and more secure. That's what Neighborhood Watch is all about!

If you are looking to volunteer as a Patrol or be a Base Station, *it just takes two hours a month;* a small commitment to protecting our neighborhoods. If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact David Perry at 941-828-1584, scan QR code below OR go to our Facebook page @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

MARCH 2024

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

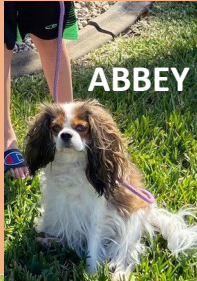


BOONE & JOLENE

National Walk and Love Your Dog Day! (Isn't that everyday?)




MOCHA



ABBEY



BUSTER



MAGGIE



CLARA



JUNIOR "JUJU"



STELLA



FRAULEIN MITZI



SPEEDY & PEANUT



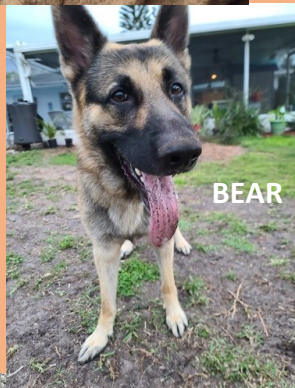
BOHDI



DAISY



GOAT



BEAR



ROSIE



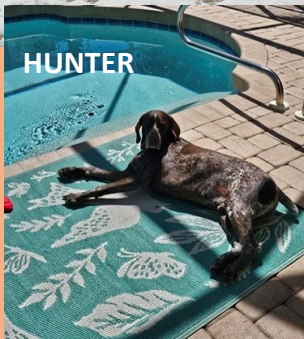
MILO



NOODLES & GENEVIEVE



JESSIE



HUNTER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- Rotonda Health & Wellness
“Ask the Pharmacist” with Sarah Swiatek, March 6th at 7 p.m.
- TRIVIA With Tim
March 7th @ 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
- Music in the Park - Rotonda Singers,
March 11th @ 5 p.m.
- Florida Friendly Landscaping Talk
March 13th @ 3-5 p.m.
- BINGO !
March 17th @ 1 p.m. (doors open at 12:15 p.m.)
- Treasurer’s TOWN HALL
March 19th @ 3-4:30 p.m.
- Rotonda Health & Wellness
“Healthy Eating”, March 20th @ 2 p.m.
- Music in the Park - North Port Showcase (chamber music group)
March 21st @ 4:30 p.m.
- Community Garage Sale - apply at:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org
- Meet & Greet Potluck (see flyer on page 18 for food suggestions) March 26th @ 5 p.m.
- Rotonda Emergency Response Training with CERT (AED, CPR/ Stop the Bleed, March 27 @ 6 p.m.
- Rotonda Nature– Guided Birdwatching Walk, March 30th @ 9 a.m.

APRIL

- Rotonda Nature - Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve: Turning a Golf Course into a Preserve
April 8th @ 2 p.m.
- Music in the Park - dance Party with Eric Stefanik/Seasons of Sound
April 8th @ 7 p.m.
- Rotonda Health & Wellness
Importance of Hydration by David Brackett, April 17 @ 2 p.m.
- Music in the Park - Speakeasy Alley
April 18th @ 4:30 p.m.
- Rotonda Health & Wellness
Bike Ride & Litter Clean-up
Meet at the Community Park on Parade Circle, April 22nd @ 9 a.m.
- Meet & Greet Potluck (watch for flyer for food suggestions) April 23rd @ 5 p.m.
- Pancreatic Cancer Walk - fundraiser with RWWC in Broadmoor Park,
April 27th @ 8:30 a.m.



ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOT WORKING.

SEE UPDATE IN RED!!!!

**If you signed online before Feb 29th,
please contact Rita at 941-662-9708**

Rotonda West Association Neighborhood
GARAGE SALE

Friday & Saturday - March 22nd & 23rd

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

QUESTIONS? CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 941-662-9708

E-mail: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

Location: Homes throughout Rotonda West Association Neighborhood

TO PARTICIPATE & SELL

1. Community-Wide Garage Sale Participation Form must be submitted and approved.
DEADLINE: MARCH 13TH
2. Hard copy available at:
Lobby rack RWA Office and in
RWA Community Center.
3. Electronic copy for you to print and fill out:
941-662-9708 or
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org
4. Submit your form to:
Hard copy - RWA Admin Office or
E-mail attachment: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org
5. Must be an RWA property owner, resident, or renter.
6. The event authorization code will be sent to you upon approval.
7. The sale of items must be on a developed residential parcel.

TO SHOP & BUY

An electronic address list of sellers will be posted on Constant Contact approximately 1 week before the event.

Hard copies will be made available for pick-up at the entrance of Rotonda West property near the mailbox, 646 Rotonda Circle on the mornings of the event.

Please be respectful to the sellers by honoring the timeframe of the event.

Please save the Date!

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

PanCAN PurpleStride Walk USA 2024

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club & Rotonda West Association (RWA) invite you to **WALK** to help end pancreatic cancer

Date: Saturday 27th April 2024

Location: Broadmoor Park (RWA)
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33497

Team Name: Rotonda West

Register at: <https://purplestride.org/USA>

Further info: Clare Imrie, 713-825-2154
clareimrieuk@hotmail.com



3rd Sunday of each month!



1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Doors open at 12:15 pm

ONLY 2 DATES LEFT! April 21st
May 19th

Invited to join in on the fun are property owners, residents, renters, and their guests.

Questions? communityoutreach@rotondawest.org
Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office.

646
Rotonda Circle
RWA
Community Center

Must be
18
to play.

Play
begins
promptly
at
1:00 pm

Snacks & water
available, or
bring your own.
Covered
beverage
container please.



Community Outreach Committee

MEET & GREET



Tuesday, March 26th from 5-7pm

RWA Community Center - 646 Rotonda Circle

Open to all RWA members and their guests

Bring a dish to share, and your drink of choice and cup. We will provide the rest of the tableware.

*To try and even out the dishes, we are **suggesting** the following (we will rotate this every month):*

If your last name begins with:

A-H - Dessert

I-P - Salad or Side

Q-Z - Main Dish

(ie: casseroles, baked pasta dish, etc.)

This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends!



**Rotonda West
Association**

Presented by the
Community Outreach
Committee

**There will be
a 50/50 pot**

MEET & GREET

Happy Hour



**Wednesday, March 6, at
5pm**

FOR ALL ROTONDA RESIDENTS (THAT INCLUDES SANDS, LAKES, HEIGHTS, ETC) AND GUESTS. ROTONDA COMMUNITY PARK ON PARADE CIRCLE. BYOB, BRING A SNACK IF YOU WOULD LIKE!

**COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND
MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS AND
HAVE SOME FUN!!!!**

PLEASE JOIN US!



“ASK THE PHARMACIST” SERIES

**PRESENTED BY:
THE COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
COMMITTEE**

SARAH SWIATEK, PHARM. D. R. PH.

**BY REQUEST, OUR CONVERSATION WILL FOCUS
UPON HOW TO BEAT INSOMNIA, AND IDEAS THAT
PROMOTE SLEEP HYGIENE.**

**MARCH 6TH
WEDNESDAY AT 7 P.M.**

RWA COMMUNITY CENTER

**JOIN US FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN INTERESTING
AND IMPORTANT DISCUSSION.**



**SARAH SWIATEK
PHARM. D. R. PH.**

Hello Rotonda friends! I hope this note finds you well!

With the weather warming up, it might be time to think about seasonal allergies. Pollen started a couple weeks back, and I myself have been a little sneezy and stuffy. A once daily antihistamine like Claritin might be helpful to control some of these symptoms. Please be sure to check with your physician or pharmacist to see which allergy medications are most appropriate for your needs. Remember hydration is also always important. And if an oral tablet is not a good option, there are now over-the-counter steroid and antihistamine nasal sprays as options as well. Consistent daily use is needed for best results.

Don't forget this **Wednesday, March 6**, I am hosting another open discussion session at 7pm in the RWA community room. By request, the topic will be about insomnia and sleep hygiene. This offering is open for Rotonda residents and their guests. As always feel free to bring your comforts, and I am always collecting self-care items for donation.

Be well!

Sarah Swiatek Pharm.D. R.Ph.



ROTONDA NATURE: FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING March 13, 2024 3-5pm

Sara Weber, Florida Friendly Landscaping Education and Training Specialist at Charlotte County Extension will present the Florida Friendly Landscaping Program.

The program was developed to address serious problems of pollution and disappearing habitats by enlisting homeowners in the battle to save our natural environment. This program provides educational and outreach activities to help residents reduce pollution and enhance their environment by improving landscape management and includes a guide to Florida Friendly plants.

What you do in your landscape matters. From the fertilizers you apply to the water you use, your gardening choices can have an impact on land, water, wildlife, and the overall well-being of Florida's residents. A Florida-friendly landscape can be designed to look the way you want, fit the aesthetics of your community, and suit your lifestyle while being environmentally sustainable.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ can help you transform your yard into a beautiful oasis that will not only conserve precious water resources and reduce pollution, but will also help you save time, energy, and money.

Whether you are new to Florida or have lived here all of your life, learn how to protect Florida's environment. Get started in your own yard by implementing the Nine Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ listed below. The smart way to grow!

Nine Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

1. Water Efficiently
2. Fertilize Appropriately
3. Mulch
4. Attract Wildlife
5. Control Yard Pests Responsibly
6. Recycle
7. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
8. Protect the Waterfront
9. Right Plant, Right Place

For more information see: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Welcome are RWA property owners, renters and their guests.

**LOCAL BIRDERS EXCITED ABOUT WIDE VARIETY OF BIRDS
AT BROADMOOR PARK**

By: Ann Weaver

On a crisp morning at the end of January, twelve local birders were drawn to Boardmoor Park after a sighting of over twenty ducks, the Lesser Scaup, on Farrell Lake. Sometimes called Bluebills, the male has a glossy purple head, and a striking black and white body. The female is brown with a white patch around her bill. Both have a grayish blue bill. Possibly there were a few Greater Scaup in the flock, but they are much less common. Over 250,000 Scaup winter in Florida in lakes, ponds, estuaries, in Lake Okeechobee and Tampa Bay. The ducks breed in Canada and feed primarily on aquatic invertebrates such as clams, snails, shrimp, crabs and a variety of insects.

After a two hour walk and a tally of the amazing assortment of birds viewed that morning, the group's sightings were posted on an eBird checklist. Over 36 species were identified, and 219 individuals were noted. The shoreline produced a Tricolored Heron, the Little Blue and Great Blue heron, White Ibis, Anhinga, Cormorant, Red-Breasted Merganser, and a wood stork.

Above were a Red-Shouldered Hawk, two American Kestrel, two Bald Eagles , a flock of nine White Pelicans, and our resident Osprey. Mourning Doves, Northern Mockingbirds, and Blue Jays were plentiful. Northern Cardinals, Loggerhead Strikes, and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers were present in large numbers.

Building and Grounds Chair Sam Besase was given the details by walk leaders Susy D'Hont and Ken Blackshaw. Sam asked for a copy of the birders' results, and stated that the plantings that "RWA has planted in and around the ponds and throughout Broadmoor Park are influencing the increase in the number of birds. Birds, wildlife, nature and flora are in abundance in the Park."

In the past year, native yellow cannas, wood sage and cardinal flower have been added to the shoreline. These plants provide cover for shore birds and allow tiny fish and invertebrates to thrive, providing food for wading birds. Wax myrtles, damaged in Hurricane Ian, are making a comeback. Red oak and bald cypress have been added to the pond by the community center. A butterfly garden is thriving, and monarchs can be seen around the many milkweeds.

A Nature Walk with a focus on birds will take place on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Broadmoor Park.



Photo of Scaup by William Dunson



Photo of Tricolored Heron by Ann Weaver



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



25 Feb 2024
Contact: Charles Truthan
Public Affairs Officer
352-266-0460
ctruthan@gmail.com
<http://cgaux.org>

News Release

The next 3, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 99, Cape Haze, Public Education classes are:

March 9: *Boat America!* In person training at the HOA building here in South Gulf Cove. Where participants learn about the basics of Boating Safety. You also earn, upon successful completion of course and test, your State of Florida ***Boating Safety Card***. This is *required for all those born on or after 1 January 1988*.

Apr 13: *Paddler's Safety Guide*. In person training at the SGC HOA building. What you need to know before you go out on a Paddle Craft, including weather, life jackets and other critical information. This is not a substitute for "on-the-water" training.

May 11: *Personal Watercraft*. In person training at the SGC HOA building. A new 2-hour course covering safety consideration, rules of the road and laws pertaining to the operation of PWC's.

Call us at 941-249-5848 to learn more, or email to LQuirk.uscgaux@gmail.com

For additional educational resources, please visit our program partners at:

BoatUS Foundation: <https://boatus.org/>

National Safe Boating Council: <https://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/>

Waterway Guide: <https://www.waterwayguide.com/knowledge-center>

Remember to ***ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!***

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org





GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.
Gwen Grace, President

MARCH 2024



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club has an annual Art & Photography Competition every January which is open to our club members. This year we had winners in several categories that then went on to the GFWC District Competition in February. GFWC Rotonda West belongs to District 12 which includes Naples, Punta Gorda, Estero/Bonita Springs, Port Charlotte, La Belle and Arcadia Woman's clubs. Again Rotonda West had winners at that level. Now those winners will advance to the GFWC Florida State Competition in Orlando next month. We're hoping to bring back a blue ribbon or two! Wish us luck!

Saturday, February 10th was the Lemon Bay Historical Society Cracker Fair on Dearborn Street in Englewood. We were invited to host the Lemon Dessert Baking Contest with the proceeds we raised from selling the delicious entries (after judging) going to the Historical Society. It was a busy, fun and delightful day and we are so proud to have been asked.



Judges who are all owners of area restaurants which include: Waverly, Lock 'n Key, Landy's, Isabellas, Mango Bistro, Libbee's, Englewood's on Dearborn, and Vino Loco. Farlows was a sponsor.

Right:

Amy Gonzales, Realtor & event sponsor; GFWC RWWC President Gwen Grace; Jeannie Joyce, RWWC member and co-chair of the event.



Above: Club members with Laura Roy from St. David's Jubilee Center



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.
Gwen Grace, President



On February 18th we held our Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser with proceeds going to the St. David's Jubilee Center food pantry and the Back Pack Kidz program whose mission is to feed hungry children in Charlotte County. We raised over \$7000. A sold out crowd had fun playing bingo and winning the beautiful designer bags. Derrick Hedges emceed the event, did a great job of modeling the bags and was a big hit with the audience. Thank you Derrick!



Designer Bag Bingo is a big hit
with the crowd!



Emcee and RWA Manager Derrick Hedges

"Derrick, that bag does
not go with those slacks!"

Hope you can join us for our annual Rummage Sale on Saturday March 16th.

If you are interested in joining GFWC RWWC you are very welcome to attend. Our next General Meeting is Thursday, March 21st at the RWA community center. The social hour begins at 9 am and the business meeting starts promptly at 10 am. This month we will have a presentation from the Lemon Bay Conservancy and have an opportunity to make "oyster condos" during the social hour.

Please go to our website at www.gfwcrotondawest.org for information about upcoming events and who we are and what we do. You can also find us on Facebook at GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group. We are proud to continue to "Live the Volunteer Spirit" as we begin to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our club.

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club



Saturday, March 16th

9am till 1:00pm ** No Early Birds

***646 Rotonda Circle * Broadmoor Park
Rotonda West Community Center***

**Bakery * Clothing * Crafts * Jewelry
Household * Sports * Wall Decor
Holiday Occasions * Technology**

Donations may be dropped off only on Friday,
March 15 between 12 & 2:00pm.

NO Large TV's (small flatscreen only), Large Furniture,
Books, Magazines, VHS tapes

Benefiting Local Charities and GFWC RWWC Projects and Programs

RWA WEST WAYS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY ITEMS

The Charlotte County Commissioners met on Tuesday February 27 and the **first topic** on their agenda was the Rotonda Blvd South bridge and the ongoing battle with FEMA regarding costs. The Charlotte County Commissioners passed a motion to write a letter to FEMA demanding their consideration of the Charlotte County detailed 100-page engineering plan vs FEMA 3–4-page sketch drawings.

The issue is money: \$312K – FEMA vs \$1.2M Charlotte County.

In addition, on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, I met with Congressman Greg Steube's personnel and reiterated the importance of the RBS bridge being completed and asked for his support in the battle with FEMA. This is the 3rd time that I have solicited his support on the RBS bridge issue.

The 2023 Charlotte County Town Hall on Water Issues was held at **9am Wednesday January 31, 2024**, at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor St. in Punta Gorda.

Resident Leo Van Orden attended presented was an overview of past, present and future water management. Topics included a brief history of water in Charlotte County, water quality issues, stormwater drainage and management, potable water, comprehensive planning, flooding, sea level rise, and ways that the public can get involved and stay informed on water issues in Charlotte County.

The quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage meeting was at **9:30am Thursday February 15, 2024**, at the Charlotte County annex building on San Casa. Please consider attending regarding these key MSBU non-ad valorem tax issues:

- Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge closed for 17 to 36 months (FEMA).
- Rotonda Bridges Repair Cycles (Rebel Road & Rotonda Circle & high end of Annapolis & Caddy at Rotonda Circle and Cape Haze Drive). Perhaps 6 more bridges (of 18) might start in 2024.
- Charlotte County – Multiple Swale Drainage Issues throughout Rotonda West.
- Road Paving Schedule pushed back to perhaps 2025.
- All Rotonda Bridges are rated at 80,000 lbs. GVW.
- Residents or their contractors are MOWING all the way down to the Ponds, this is **not recommended** by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Residents or their contractors are FERTILIZING all the way down to the Ponds. this is **not recommended** by FWC or
- Water remains in the swale for LONGER than 72 hours after the last rain event.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFTMUD) has recently issued a water shortage order covering Charlotte County. Homes with addresses ending in EVEN numbers are authorized to water their lawns on Thursdays and Sundays, ODD number addresses are authorized to water their lawns on Wednesdays and Saturdays. WATERING TIMES ARE – EITHER BEFORE 10AM OR AFTER 4PM.

Sam Besase

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

**Nancy Schwechel and
Pablo Guardiola**
Administrator and
Deed Restrictions

Jenny Bulle
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WONDERFUL STAFF**

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